

RESOLUTION 10-01

SOURCE: National Headquarters, AR, NJ, NY MD, PA, NM, IA, IL, TN, WA, CA, KY, MA, VA, OH, WI

SUBJECT: Sufficient, timely and predictable VA health care funding

WHEREAS, title 38, U.S.C., section 1701(a), provides that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall furnish hospital care and medical services, but only to the extent Congress has provided money to cover the cost of the care; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the President have failed to enact VA health care appropriations prior to the start of the new fiscal year 18 of the last 20 years, causing VA great difficulties in planning and managing their health care system; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative effects of insufficient, late and unpredictable health care funding endangers the overall viability of the system and the specialized programs VA has developed to improve the health and well-being of our Nation's sick and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA has reached capacity at many of its health care facilities and is unable to provide timely access to quality health care to may of our Nation's sick and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, sufficient, timely and predictable funding could be achieved by reforming the VA budget process, either by changing VA health care funding from discretionary to mandatory, or by approving an advanced appropriations process: now, therefore; be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS supports legislation that would reform the VA health care budget process to guarantee sufficient, timely and predictable resources to cover the expenses of the veterans' health care program, either through mandatory funding or advanced appropriations funding.